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Townside

MAB Community Services honors Canton-based residential counselor

MAB Community Services (MAB) has just honored 11 of the best direct care staff in the Adult Disability Services division with Maxo Joseph Excellence in Direct Care Awards. Osayomwanbor Kennedy Omoruyi (Kennedy), who works at MAB's York Street group home in Canton, proudly accepted one of the prestigious awards, which comes with a prize of \$2,000.

These awards are part of MAB's efforts to create a welcoming and supportive work environment. Nominated by coworkers, supervisors, and the families of the people they support, 11 team members are annually recognized at a special luncheon and receive a total of \$50,000 in awards. Kennedy, a residential coordinator

in Canton, has worked at MAB since 2017. The York Street residents experienced traumatic brain injuries, were hospitalized, and transferred to nursing homes. The ABI Waiver program and the nursing support at York Street allowed these men to move into the community.

"Both LPNs at York Street nominated Kennedy for the Maxo Joseph Award," said Heller Shoop, Executive Director of MAB's Adult Disability Services. "Given his level of skill, they thought he must be a CNA. They have such confidence in the care he provides. Kennedy is

relationships with the participants. He can change the sheets while a participant is in bed without disturbing him. During COVID, Kennedy went above and beyond to help coordinate telehealth sessions with occupational therapists and physical therapists through the VNA. The participants trust Kennedy to take care of them.

Kennedy has wonderful

always smiling."

The Maxo Joseph Awards were created to honor the life and legacy of Maxo Joseph, a direct care team member in MAB's Adult Disability Services for nearly 20 years, who died from COVID-19. Maxo loved his work. He knew it was important, and he was an ideal residential counselor. When he wasn't at work, he and his family members cared for his 83-yearold mom.

Jay Lupica made a transformative matching grant through the Patricia W. and Alfred E. Farah Charitable Gift Fund to launch the Maxo Joseph Awards. During this month's awards ceremony, Lupica pledged an additional \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar matching grant for the Maxo Joseph Awards, supporting MAB's efforts to recruit, retain, and reward exceptional

staff. "We are thrilled to recognize our best staff with the Maxo Joseph



MAB Adult Disability Services Executive Director Heller Shoop with Osayomwanbor Kennedy Omoruyi Darlene DeVita photo

and dedication they provide our participants," said Barbara Salisbury, CEO of MAB Community Services. "Direct care is at the heart of all Awards, for the excellent care that MAB does. The quality of our

work depends on the quality of our direct care staff. Creating a work environment where staff feel valued, respected, and appreciated builds loyalty."

New pickleball courts open at Canton High School

Canton Parks & Recreation and the Department of Elder and Human Services are pleased to announce the opening of four new pickleball courts at Canton High School.

The courts officially opened on Friday, July 29, and are available during open play times Fridays and Saturdays from 8-11 a.m. The new courts utilize portable pickleball nets and are located closest to the American Legion Post 24 Hall. Otherwise, residents are encouraged to bring their own net and have fun! Several town officials worked together to make this project a reality, including Select Board member Tom



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Theodore, CHS Athletic Director Danny Erickson, Parks & Recreation Director Tyler Radicioni, DEHS Director Diane Tynan, and residents Jim Bove and Pete Marshalka. A special shout out to the Parks and Rec. staff for getting the court lined in record time during a heat wave. **History of Pickleball in Canton** In the summer of 2017, Pete and Gail Marshalka approached the Department of Elder & Human Services about pickleball. They came with lots of information



a space to offer pickleball, they were fortunate that the Pappas Rehabilitation Hospital for Children on Randolph Street allowed use of

its gymnasium, and DEHS held its first pickleball session in early September with 24 people showing up to learn and play.

From that day forward, pickleball has been a great success in Canton, particularly with those over 50, and the number of players continues to increase each year. Throughout this time, DEHS had also been working with the town to set up an outdoor

option for pickleball. In July 2018, the School Committee and Select Board permitted them to line one of the CHS courts for pickleball, which was done and funded by the Department of Elder and Human Services. The fact that Canton now has four useable outdoor courts demonstrates the growing popularity of pickleball and the need for more courts in the future.

In the Spotlight

• Josh Hwa of Canton graduated from Tufts University with a Bachelor of Arts in economics.

• The following Canton residents have been named to the Tufts University dean's list for the spring 2022 semester: Arielle Galinsky, Josh Hwa, Addison Mirliani, Josh Morris, and Sydney Weng.

• Colleen Boucher, a member of the Canton High Class of 2018, graduated with honors from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, with Bachelor of Science degrees in biochemistry and mathematics. Boucher is entering the doctorate program in neuroscience at Penn State University.

• The following Canton residents were awarded bachelor's degrees from the University of Massachusetts Amherst during the school's undergraduate commencement held on May 13: Lindsey Barrett, Justin Diep, Brian Drakos, Brian Ghostlaw, Ayanna Griffith, Carly Hutchinson, Aidas Jakubenas, Siobhan Kelly, Grace Lehane, Ryan Lodge, Colin Messinger, Amanda Mok, Wilton Mok, Ava Mullin, Bradford Murphy, Kassidy Peters, Kelly Rospide, Samuel Serjani, Liat Vishny and Colin Whippen.



The Canton Citizen, a proud sponsor of the annual Canton Writes contest, will publish a selection of winning entries from the 2022 contest throughout the summer months as space permits.

> My crazy life as a 10 year old girl By Emily Neill 1st Place - Elementary Nonfiction

My life is super crazy! I am a girl that loves dance, soccer, friends, and family more than anything. I live with my mom, dad, and my three younger sisters, Julia, Rachel, and Sarah.

I am the oldest. Sarah is the youngest. She is obsessed with school busses and trucks. Rachel is another story. She is so loud, she will scream whenever she wants and she doesn't hesitate. Julia loves gymnastics and she will never in a million years go anywhere without a snazzy outfit and a headband.

My mom is a dance teacher and my dad is a security worker. My whole family has more energy in a day than

find a family just like ours, with four crazy kids.

One day in the winter of 2021 my fearless sister Rachel was sledding with me, my family, and my cousin Nicole. She went down the huge icy hill and she was not shy to plow through a couple groups of sixth grade boys, which she followed into the woods. Even as I write this my cousin Nicole is talking, Julia is doing roundoff backhand springs, Rachel is dumping out her dolls, Sarah is watching Cocomelon, my mom is making dinner and my dad is at work. Don't tell me that is not a crazy house.

I have two grandmas but sadly both of my grandfathers have passed away. One before I was born and the other when I was in first grade. It is sad but I learned how to live without them. My whole life is sometimes a blur.

I get overwhelmed about a lot of things like cleaning my room, making my bed, school, and homework. Sometimes Rachel's screaming can put me totally off track. My family has a bunch of funny, sad, happy, silly, and arguing moments, a cheetah chasing a deer. It is hard to but together we make things work

because we are a team and a family.

Family is a great source when you are sad or overwhelmed. Family should support you, make you happy and encourage you to take on sports, activities, and even interests of what you want to be when you grow up. I know my family does that and even though we fight or get mad at each other, no matter what we say or do, even if you don't feel love, it is there, somewhere deep in your heart.

With four kids, the house is always a mess. It is not rare to find an old shirt from when you were 2 years old under your bed. Also, we are into different things. I am interested in gems, dance, soccer, and marine biology. On the other hand, Julia is into gymnastics, dance, fashion, style, flexibility, and reading. We are almost exact opposites of each other and in a house like mine it is hard to keep track of all those tools and materials you need for that sport or activity. Rachel is a little thief. She takes all of my stuff and hides it. Come on Rachel, why my stuff?

I hope you had a little chuckle reading about my life and how my family works. I sure had a nice time writing this so I hope you enjoyed.